

people of Canada in every province from the Atlantic to the Pacific.

My right hon. friend has spent a very considerable portion of his speech in reading from a public newspaper a series of letters respecting the reduction on the duty in cement. I observed that my hon. friend the member for Edmonton (Mr. Oliver) was not particularly comfortable while he was reading those extracts. Perhaps I may be mistaken in my appreciation of the feelings which animated that gentleman while his leader was discussing that subject. We have heard from a number of hon. gentlemen on the other side of the House, and especially from the hon. member for Edmonton, diatribes without number against the so-called trusts and mergers and the combines, and this very combine, the alleged cement combine, is one that has been held up to contempt and harsh language and obloquy by the hon. member for Edmonton on more than one occasion; and he even now nods his approval. Now, I would simply like to ask my hon. friend from Edmonton what he thinks of his leader when he poses as a champion of this awful combine. I do not propose to take up time in debating that subject, except to say that it was thoroughly discussed by the Government before the action was taken, that they made themselves acquainted with the facts and the circumstances, and to add further, that before the conclusion of this debate my hon. friend the Minister of Finance will state to the satisfaction of the majority of this House and to the satisfaction of the majority of the people of the country, the reasons which led the Government to take that course.

My right hon. friend went on further, and attacked us in anticipation, because he declared that the Speech from the Throne ought to contain a reference to the Redistribution Bill. My right hon. friend is very anxious and very much concerned about an anticipated crisis in the Government. He desires to provide carefully in advance for every possible crisis. I think if he will provide for any crisis which arise in the ranks of his own party, he will have enough to engage his attention, and he need not trouble himself very much about our supposed crisis. I beg to inform my right hon. friend that, as I understand it, and as he understands it, any redistribution measure that may be passed cannot take effect until after the dissolution of the then existing parliament. That is absolutely understood. Now I have under my hand a pretty careful statement of what has been done in that regard since the inception of this Confederation, but I will take only one illustration. As I understand it, in 1901 there was a pre-

liminary report of the census made on the 15th day of August, 1901, and the Redistribution Bill was not assented to until the 24th day of October, 1903, more than 26 months afterwards. The report which we issued to the public was under date of 27th February, 1912. The census of last year having been taken on the basis of June instead of March as in previous years; and if we put through this Redistribution Bill by April 1914, we shall have made as much progress after the census of 1911 as my right hon. friend did after the census of 1901.

My right hon. friend (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) comments upon the Government's silence as to their achievements. We differ from our hon. friends on that side of the House in that our achievements are such as speak for themselves while these hon. gentlemen were obliged continually to boast of theirs.

My right hon. friend then went on to profess himself shocked in respect of certain misdeeds which he declared to have taken place in the riding of Macdonald and in the riding of Richelieu, and he brought in as incontrovertible evidence of these misdeeds—what do you suppose? Certain newspaper clippings! My right hon. friend, in days gone by, was wont to speak of hon. gentlemen on this side of the House, as 'Scrap-book orators.' I venture to think that when a man who has been Prime Minister of Canada and is to-day leader of his party desires to present to the House and to the country a resolution of such a character as that which my right hon. friend has brought forward, for the sake of his own reputation and for the dignity of Parliament, he should desire to be supported by something better than a scrap-book. He will have a test upon his proposed motion. These professions do not come very well from a right hon. gentleman who had to do with the West Huron and Brockville elections, one who obtained the vote of members of this House by his pledge that the investigation into these cases should be carried out to the very end—and yet from the day that pledge was made up to the present time it has not been fulfilled. If he desires to go into these matters and to have recrimination and reminiscence, let me remind him of what took place in London, in Hastings, in Yukon, and in many another election under his regime, the very enumeration of which would occupy too lengthily at the moment the time of this House.

My right hon. friend has referred to a few other matters which we may leave for the moment as they are not of very great importance. The hon. gentleman has been holding a series of meetings throughout the country during recent weeks. He did not, it is true, go to the West, but remained